

Town of West Hartford
Human Rights Commission
Mission Statement

“The West Hartford Human Rights Commission fosters mutual understanding and respect among people, and encourages equality of treatment of all people, regardless of race, color, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, civil union status, gender identity or expression, marital status, familial status, genetic information, age, economic status, lawful source of income, national origin or ancestry, or present or past history of physical, mental, intellectual or learning disability including, but not limited to blindness.”

Town of West Hartford
Human Rights Commission
West Hartford Town Hall
7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, June 6, 2017
Room 217

Minutes

Attendance

Krishna Adhikari	Present
Judith Borden, Chair	Present
Charles Cleary, Secretary	Present
Sarah Raskin	Present
Barry Walters	Present
Judy Wyman Kelly	Present

Due to Commissioners Kelly & Raskin attending another meeting in town hall, the start of the meeting was delayed. Judy B. called the meeting to order at 7:30.

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Judy K. asked that the following changes be made to the May minutes:

- Correct her name, where listed, to Judy Wyman Kelly
- Add commissioner Raskin's last name to the vote on the resolution
- Add 'resource page for immigrants & refugees" to the library website discussion

Krishna noted that Pramod's last name was misspelled. Chuck C. will make the corrections. Judy K. moved, and Krishna seconded, approval of the minutes.

Judy B. reported on the search for a replacement for Commissioner Andrews. All Democrat slots are currently filled on the commission. The new member will have to be a non-Democrat. Judy K. offered to post info on the Facebook page.

Commissioners reviewed the calendar of events. Judy K. asked why West Hartford Days was listed, as the commission has not been involved with this in the past. Chuck C. said he put events of interest, for which the commission might consider becoming involved.

Judy B. was reading the book selected for One Book, One Town. She recommended commissioners consider reading it. Judy K. noted that the commission co-sponsors the event. The committee meets once a month. Judy K. used to represent the commission at the meetings. If anyone else is available to attend the meetings, they could take that slot.

The commission needs to register for the Park Road Parade. It will be held Saturday, October 7th this year. Commissioners discussed trying to get others to walk with the commission:

- Having a theme vs. letting students pick a Human Rights topic on their own
- Asking the superintendent to encourage school participation
- Asking students to do something creative, like a poster or wear costumes
- Judy B. asked Krishna about involving the Nepalese community. He agreed that was possible, but they had their own contingent participating in the parade.

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- Sarah suggested asking the superintendent to identify a teacher in each school
- Tie in the parade with Human Rights Day in December.

The commission may ask the mayor for a proclamation for World AIDS Day in December. Barry noted that World AIDS Day has changed over time, from mourning those lost to AIDS to celebrating those living with HIV and AIDS. Commissioners discussed possible ideas:

- Involve the library
- Have a panel discussion
- Ask Bow Tie cinemas to host a movie
- Barry suggested targeting the 18-29 age group, those most at risk

The commissioners expressed interest in hearing an update on the resources to assist immigrants. Pramod is the most involved with this initiative.

Judy B. asked for a status update on the City of Compassion. Chuck C. reported that a meeting with Town Council member Ben Wenograd had not happened yet. Barry said he would reach out to him again.

Judy K. reported frustration in having the Barnes & Noble in Blue Back Square install an automatic door opener at its main entrance to be more accessible. It was noted that the doors are very heavy, and patrons in wheelchairs or patrons with little upper body strength struggled to get in. Judy K. had spoken with the store manager, but had not received a satisfactory answer. The store is compliant with building codes. Barry suggested contacting corporate. Judy K. asked commission members if they were in Barnes & Noble to also request this change. Sarah suggested changing the town ordinance for retail.

The next commission meeting will be September 5th.

Judy K. motioned, and Krishna seconded, the meeting be adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
C. Cleary,
June 25, 2017